

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Gilbert Town Historic District**

Rutherfordton vicinity, Rutherford County, RF0336, Listed 8/23/2006  
Nomination by Philip Thomason and Steven D. Smith  
Photographs March 2006, unknown photographer



View east toward Hampton-McKinney House, 1001 Rock Road  
and Ferguson's Ridge



Rock Road, view north to Cathey's Creek



Rock Road, looking east toward Cathey's Creek



Rock Road, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name     Gilbert Town Historic District

other names/site number     Archaeological Site Number 31RF128

2. Location

street & number     Along sections of Rock Road-SR 1520 & Old Gilbert Town Road-SR 1539     N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town     Rutherfordton     ☒ vicinity

state     North Carolina     code     NC     county     Rutherford     code     161     zip code     28139

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title     Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title     Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper     Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Gilbert Town Historic District  
Name of Property

Rutherford County, North Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	36	Buildings
3	0	Sites
0	3	structures
0	1	Objects
3	40	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Field  
LANDSCAPE/Forest  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related (Vehicular)  
DEFENSE/Military Facility  
HEALTH CARE/Hospital  
GOVERNMENT/courthouse

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Field  
LANDSCAPE/Forest  
FUNERARY/Cemetery  
TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related (Vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation N/A  
walls N/A  
roof N/A  
other N/A

Narrative Description  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Gilbert Town Historic District  
Name of Property

Rutherford County, North Carolina  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☒ **C** birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY  
POLITICS

### Period of Significance

1776-1782  
1790

### Significant Dates

1780-1782  
1790

### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Gilbert, William

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University

☐ Other  
Name of repository:

**Acreage of Property** 459.5 acres

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

name/title	Philip Thomason/Steven D. Smith			
Organization	Thomason and Associates	date	February 8, 2006	
street & number	P.O. Box 121225	telephone	615-385-4960	
city or town	Nashville	state	TN	zip code 37212

submit the following items with the completed form:

## Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Gilbert Town Historic District  
Rutherford County, North Carolina

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## Description

The Gilbert Town Historic District is located three miles northeast of downtown Rutherfordton, North Carolina. Rutherfordton is located in the central section of the county and serves as the Rutherford County seat (2000 pop. 4,131). Gilbert Town is accessed by two, two-lane paved roads: Rock Road, also known as Oak Springs Road and State Road 1520, and Old Gilbert Town Road also known as State Road 1539. Rock Road bisects the center of the historic district in a north-south direction and approximates the historic roadbed which extended through Gilbert Town in the eighteenth century. Old Gilbert Town Road intersects Rock Road in the center of the district. Despite its name, Old Gilberttown Road was not built until 1950. The district is composed primarily of cultivated fields along the valley floor adjacent to Cathey's Creek, and along wooded ridges. Cathey's Creek is a shallow tributary of the Second Broad River and extends through the eastern edge of the historic district in a north-south direction. The Cathey's Creek valley is at an elevation of approximately 860' and the adjacent ridges extend to over 1,000' in height. The most prominent high ground in the district is Ferguson's Ridge west of Cathey's Creek and Rock Road which rises to an elevation of approximately 1,040' in height. The Gilbert Town Historic District encompasses 459.5 acres, most of which remains in cultivation or woodlands.

The Gilbert Town Historic District contains one contributing archaeological site (31RF128) with eight distinct loci dating from its period of significance from 1776 to 1790. From 1776 to 1783, Gilbert Town was an important trading center and served as a camp for both Patriot and Loyalist forces. Associated with prominent settler William Gilbert, his dwelling was used as the Rutherford County Courthouse for a period in the early 1780s. Archaeological investigations conducted for this project identified a site which may be the location of his dwelling. Gilbert died in 1790 and is buried in a cemetery within the district boundary. Since 1790, much of this land has remained in either woodlands or cultivation, it has a high degree of integrity, and it is considered a contributing historic landscape/site. Within the historic district are also thirty-six non-contributing buildings, three non-contributing structures, and one non-contributing object. The majority of these non-contributing buildings are located on the periphery of the district boundary. These non-contributing buildings are primarily dwellings and associated outbuildings built in the twentieth century. Most of these dwellings are located on large lots or farms facing Rock Road and Old Gilbert Town Road, and are included in order to encompass the entire wooded or pastured lots on which they are sited.

In the preparation of this nomination an inventory of all buildings and structures was completed as well as a description of the topography and landscape features. The topography and land use in the district has remained consistent at least since the early twentieth century. Aerial photographs taken between 1938 and 1988 show similar land use with the tracts utilized for either woodlands or cultivation (Map Nos. 5-7-Pages 33-35).<sup>1</sup> The rich farmland along Cathey's Creek has remained in continuous cultivation since the late eighteenth century and the adjacent ridges are now covered with second or third growth timber. All known historic sites associated with Gilbert Town are included within the nominated property with the exception of the 1781-1786 Rutherford County Courthouse site and the site of William Gilbert's Mill on Holland's Creek. Holland's Creek is located one-half mile to the south of the Gilbert Town Historic District and between the district boundary and the creek is a large industrial park and residential subdivision. The exact location of these sites is unknown and archaeological investigations to identify the courthouse location have not been successful.<sup>2</sup> The district boundary is drawn to omit modern residential development on the high

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Aerial Maps, 1938, 1956, and 1988, (Maps on file at the USDA Office, Rutherfordton, North Carolina).

<sup>2</sup> In 2004, archaeological investigations were conducted in this vicinity by Steven D. Smith of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and Tom Padgett of the Rutherford County Historical Society.



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Gilbert Town Historic District  
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ground to the west of Ferguson's Ridge. It is possible that this high ground also provided camp sites for both Patriot and Tory forces at Gilbert Town. However, this property no longer retains integrity due to the extent of ground disturbance and construction.

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail commemorates the King's Mountain campaign of 1780, and follows the approximate location of Rock Road through the historic district. Within the historic district no remnants of the original roadbed exist and Rock Road is included as a non-contributing structure. The historic motor route of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail follows US Highway 64 one mile southeast of the historic district boundary (Map 3-Page 30). The historic district boundary does not extend to include a section of this commemorative route due to intervening residential and industrial development. The present location of US Highway 64 is along a nineteenth and twentieth century roadbed and does not have historical associations with Gilbert Town. A map of the Carolinas from 1785 shows several roads intersecting at Gilbert Town and the present-day paved Rock Road follows the road leading from the courthouse to settlements in the mountains (Map 1-Page 28).<sup>3</sup> When the courthouse was moved to Rutherfordton in 1785, this early network of roads to Gilbert Town became less used and only the paved Rock Road remains from this historic road pattern. A section of the original roadbed west of the Hampton-McKinney House is shown on a 1956 aerial photograph of the area (Map 6-Page 34). Due to cultivation, erosion, and expansion of woodlands, this roadbed is no longer discernable.

In addition to the above-ground inventory, archaeological testing was undertaken to identify sites associated with Gilbert Town from the period of significance. The archaeological investigation was coordinated by Steven D. Smith of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). Three days of investigation occurred from July 7 to July 9, 2004, which included meetings with local informants and historians, checking court house records and other sources of historical documentation. Prior to this investigation, Gilbert Town had been given an archaeological site number (31RF128) as a result of a brief investigation by Ms. Kay Young, who had conducted a county-wide survey in 1979. To reveal the archaeological evidence at Gilbert Town a reconnaissance survey was completed using both limited shovel testing and metal detecting at selected landforms determined through a combination of historic research, informant testimony, oral history and tradition, and archaeological experience at other military sites. Local informant Dale Williams provided information on the possible locations of eighteenth century archaeological sites. Shovel testing was conducted at two sites. The first was at the Hampton-McKinney house, the other at the suspected location of the William Gilbert House. Modern artifacts were recorded and returned to the shovel tests, while artifacts dating to the eighteenth century, or suspected of being eighteenth century were collected. Artifacts were bagged and labeled with provenience information for final processing at the SCIAA.

The Gilbert Town Historic District contains twenty tax parcels encompassing 459.5 acres. These parcels collectively comprise one contributing archaeological site with eight distinct loci, one contributing landscape/site, one contributing gravesite, thirty-six non-contributing buildings, three non-contributing structures, and one non-contributing object. These parcels are as follows:

1. 448 Old Gilbert Town Road (Tax Map 133, Parcel 4-A, 27.5 acres)  
This parcel contains 27.5 acres, the majority of which are composed of woodlands and pasture. Facing Old Gilbert Town Road is a one-story, prefabricated dwelling built ca. 1960. Adjacent to this dwelling are five outbuildings which are also non-contributing buildings. These are the following:

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<sup>3</sup> William Eaden, *"The Marches of Lord Cornwallis in the Southern Provinces now States of North America Comprehending the Two Carolinas, 1785."* Map on file at the North Carolina State Library and Archives.

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- ca. 1960 tobacco shed of frame construction which displays a metal gable roof;
- ca. 1940 corn crib moved to this site by the present owner;
- ca. 1965 frame barn with a metal gable roof and metal siding;
- ca. 1965 frame shop building, and;
- ca. 1970 metal storage building.

To the east of this cluster of buildings is an open field and woodlands which extend northeast to Cathey's Creek. This section of the parcel includes the eastern slopes of a knoll overlooking Cathey's Creek. This area is just east of Locus-3 and is in the vicinity of possible eighteenth century use and occupation.

2. 476 Old Gilbert Town Road (Tax Map 133, Parcel 5-A, 1 acre)  
This parcel contains a brick veneer Ranch style dwelling and three ca. 1990 frame storage buildings. According to tax records this dwelling was built in 1979. The property is sited on a one-acre parcel.
3. 498 Old Gilbert Town Road (Tax Map 133, Parcel 5, 51.9 acres)  
This large parcel of almost 52 acres contains two archaeological loci, and a non-contributing dwelling and outbuilding. At this location is a ca. 2000 frame dwelling with an associated frame storage shed sited just off Old Gilbert Town Road. To the rear of the dwelling is a large pasture that extends down the ridgeline to where it intersects a treeline. The parcel also encompasses a wooded ridge at the east end of the lot near Cathey's Creek. On the northwest side of this ridge is Locus-3, a contributing archaeological locus. Northwest of the dwelling at the crest of a hill is Locus-8, a likely eighteenth century cemetery.

Locus-3 is located on a sharp slope of a knoll overlooking Cathey's Creek at N3918189/E414485 (Map No. 11-Page 39). Mr. Williams suggested that Locus-3 represented a small domestic site or a military camp, perhaps both. He reported recovering eighteenth century buttons, quantities of wrought nails, a few lead shot, and at least two table knife blades. Metal detecting by the survey team yielded one wrought nail, a one cut nail, unidentified iron object (possibly a knife or fork handle) and a lead shot sprue. No shovel testing was done. Given the slope and the shallowness of the soils, it is unlikely that shovel testing would have added any information to that provided by the metal detecting. The area where artifacts were found is a triangular area 80 meters on each side.

Locus- 8 is suspected to be a colonial cemetery located at N3917767/E414427 at the southern slope of a hill south of Gilbert Town (Map 16-Page 44). Historical accounts and oral tradition suggests that this cemetery may contain the remains of Tory Major James Dunlap who was killed at William Gilbert's House in March of 1781.<sup>4</sup> These accounts state that his grave was set apart from the other graves and had a large headstone and footstone. This configuration of graves remains visible and in addition to this grave, there are also six other graves marked by smaller granite headstones and footstones in a row running approximately north/south and facing east. No inscriptions are visible on any of the headstones. Local historians believe that these graves are those of soldiers who died at the hospital at Gilbert Town following the Battles of King's Mountain and Cowpens.<sup>5</sup> Two other depressions without gravestones are also visible and it is very possible more graves are in the vicinity. Mr. Williams reported finding little or nothing of

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<sup>4</sup> Nancy Ellen Ferguson and Irene Delpino, Personal Interview, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 7 July, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

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interest in the vicinity. As defined by these depressions the locus is 15 x 15 meters in size. No shovel testing or metal detecting was completed.

4. Old Gilbert Town Road Vicinity, (Map 133, Parcel 6-C, 3.2 acres)  
Located at the southeast corner of Rock Road and Old Gilbert Town Road, this 3.2-acre parcel is composed of woodlands. There are no buildings or structures on this parcel and it is located on the north slope of a hill.
5. 781 Rock Road, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 9, 22.1 acres)  
At this location is a dwelling located close to Rock Road and woodlands that extend to the base of Ferguson's Ridge. The brick dwelling was constructed ca. 1985 and replaced a ca. 1920 frame dwelling.
6. 900 Rock Road, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 8, 17.8 acres)  
This parcel extends along the east and west sides of Rock Road. On the east side of the road is the Judson and Anna Walker House built ca. 1920. Anna Lee McKinney, daughter of James C. McKinney, married Judson Walker and this house was built on property deeded to them by her father. The house is a one-story frame bungalow and has a gable crimped metal roof, an exterior of board and batten siding, and a concrete block foundation. On the façade is a shed roof porch with added milled wood columns and a wood railing. Windows are ca. 1992 vinyl sash.

Adjacent to the dwelling on the east side of the road are four outbuildings as follows:

- ca. 1950 hen house which has a concrete block foundation, gable roof of crimped metal, and exterior of vertical board siding.
- ca. 1950 concrete block garage with a gable metal roof.
- ca. 1950 concrete block well house which has a metal gable roof, interior brick flue, and a shed roof porch on the south façade.
- ca. 1950 concrete block tenant house with a gable, metal roof, and a concrete foundation. The building has a single-light glass and wood door and two-over-two horizontal wood sash windows.

On the west side of Rock Road across from the dwelling are four outbuildings as follows:

- ca. 1960 frame shed with a crimped metal roof, vertical board siding, and a stone foundation.
- ca. 1950 concrete block barn with a gable roof of crimped metal, and an exterior wall surface of both concrete block and wood siding.
- ca. 1950 egg sorting house of concrete block construction with a gable metal roof, concrete block walls, and two-over-two horizontal sash windows.
- ca. 1960 chicken house with a crimped metal roof, board and batten siding, and concrete foundation.

To the north of the buildings on the west side of Rock Road are woodlands that extend to the base of Ferguson's Ridge.

7. 963 Rock Road, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 6-A, 3.6 acres)  
This dwelling was constructed ca. 1975 as the residence of James C. McKinney, grandson of James M. McKinney who purchased this property in 1898. The house is a one-story frame, Ranch style dwelling with a gable roof. To the rear of the house is a ca. 1970 frame storage building, a prefabricated metal storage building. To the north and west of the house are woodlands that extend to the base of Ferguson's Ridge.

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8. Rock Road, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 6B/7B, 3.9 acres)  
These parcels are located between 963 Rock Road and 1001 Rock Road. Located on these parcels are two non-contributing buildings: a prefabricated metal garage erected in 1999 and a ca. 1980 frame and metal barn.
9. 1001 Rock Road, Hampton -McKinney House, ca. 1840. (Tax Map 133, Parcel 6, 1.5 acres)  
This parcel contains the ca. 1840 Hampton-McKinney House, a garage built in 1996, and one archaeological loci. Both buildings are non-contributing to the Gilbert Town Historic District. The Hampton-McKinney House is a two-story, frame, I-House built ca. 1840. The dwelling has two exterior end brick chimneys, a gable roof of asphalt shingles, a stone foundation, and an exterior of vinyl siding. The house was extensively remodeled in 1996 with the addition of vinyl siding, vinyl windows, and a rebuilt shed roof porch with square wood columns and balusters. The main entrance retains original two-panel double doors with a five-light transom and six-light sidelights. At the rear is a one-story gable roof ell with vinyl windows and siding. On the south façade of this ell is a shed roof porch added in 1996 and an entrance with a glass and wood door.

In 1997, an historic structures report was prepared for this property by John Horton, Restoration Specialist with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The purpose of this analysis was to ascertain if this dwelling was associated with William Gilbert and dated to the late eighteenth century. According to Horton, the dwelling was constructed between 1825 and 1850 which would coincide with its ownership by either Jonathan Hampton, his son, Samuel S. Hampton, or John Gray Bynum.<sup>6</sup> The property was owned by Jonathan Hampton until it was deeded to Samuel S. Hampton in 1843, who in turn sold it to John Gray Bynum in 1845. The two-story frame dwelling was built in a central-hall plan with Greek Revival detailing. The second-story appears to have been added in the late nineteenth century due to the presence of circular saw marks, machine cut nails, and other physical evidence in the attic and roof. Some of the lumber in the house also appears to have been re-used from an earlier building and family tradition states that some of the timbers in the William Gilbert House were used in the construction of the Hampton-McKinney House. This would have occurred around 1878 when the William Gilbert House was dismantled by owner James A. Forney.

The present owners are Ruth and Neal Roberson. Ruth McKinney Roberson is the granddaughter of James M. McKinney who purchased the property in 1898. The dwelling later passed into the hands of her father, George C. McKinney. According to Mrs. Roberson, the house originally had a number of associated outbuildings including a smokehouse, granary, barn, chicken house, and wash house. Across the road was a small cotton storage house. All of these outbuildings were razed over the past several decades. The only existing outbuilding on the property is a frame and metal garage built in 1996. The dwelling was extensively remodeled in 1996.

Locus- 6 is located in the front and side yards of the Hampton-McKinney House at N3918052/E414427 (Map 14-Page 42). Archaeological testing was conducted at this site to identify any artifacts which may be

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<sup>6</sup> John Horton, "Assessment of the Twitty-McKinney House" (Unpublished Report, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 18 August 1997), 2-3.

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associated with the Hampton-McKinney House or any earlier eighteenth century occupation. Mr. Williams reported finding very little material near the house, on either side of the road. This agrees with the survey team's shovel testing and metal detecting results, which were virtually negative. A total of nine shovel tests were excavated in the north, west and east yard areas next to the house within an area seventy by forty meters. Shovel tests ranged from five cms to thirty cms and soils were consistent with those seen at Locus 1. No colonial artifacts, except a single eighteenth century alkaline glazed stoneware sherd, were recovered. A surface examination of a garden plot northwest of the house and another southwest of the house found no eighteenth century artifacts and surprisingly few modern glass and ceramic sherds. The front (north) of the house had clearly been terraced and this was confirmed in an interview with Mr. Roberson who stated that the land surface had been modified with heavy equipment numerous times. Across Rock Road to the east of the house, an area approximately 50 meters east-west by 40 meters north south was metal detected and no colonial period artifacts were found. It was also clear that this area had been stripped of its topsoils.

10. 1103 Rock Road, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 7-A, 102.1 acres)

This large parcel contains two archaeological loci and a non-contributing dwelling with seven associated outbuildings. The dwelling and outbuildings are clustered together on the west side of Rock Road. To the north of the buildings is a large fenced pasture that contains the contributing archaeological site, Locus-4. To the west of the house and outbuildings is a wooded ridge that extends to 1,040 feet in height. Known as Ferguson's Ridge, this has traditionally been identified as the campsite of British Major Patrick Ferguson's army in September of 1780. An archaeological locus on the summit and western slopes of this ridge, designated as Locus-5, appears to provide confirmation of written and oral accounts of its occupation.

The dwelling at 1103 Rock Road was constructed ca. 1900 according to Mrs. Ruth Roberson who grew up nearby. This dwelling appears to have been built for the J.C. Cowen family. The dwelling was later owned by several other families and around 1930 it was remodeled into its bungalow form. The house has a gable roof, interior concrete flue, and exterior of wood siding. The gable roof porch has wrought iron porch posts. On the west elevation of the dwelling is a large two-bay garage wing added ca. 1995. Associated with this dwelling are seven twentieth century outbuildings. The outbuildings are located within 200 yards of the house and are located to the north and west of the dwelling. These seven non-contributing outbuildings are as follows:

- ❖ ca. 1940 frame barn with a concrete block foundation, gable metal roof, and vertical board siding. The barn has a central runway and stock stalls.
- ❖ ca. 1930 frame storage building with vertical board siding, a metal gable roof, and a four-panel door. On the east and west façades are shed roof, drive-thru wings.
- ❖ ca. 1996 frame storage building.
- ❖ ca. 1996 frame barn.
- ❖ ca. 1996 frame tractor shed.
- ❖ ca. 1996 implement shed.
- ❖ ca. 1996 frame garage.

The dwelling and seven associated outbuildings are non-contributing buildings in the Gilbert Town Historic District.

To the north of the house and outbuildings is a large pasture which extends up a slight knoll above Cathey's Creek. On this knoll is Locus-4, at N3918592/E414443 (Map 12-Page 40) This locus was found during the

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survey team's initial metal detecting survey and later confirmed by Mr. Williams. He believes that Locus-4 is the site of a military camp, albeit one associated with a contemporary domestic site or other structure. Mr. Williams found eighteenth and early nineteenth century buttons, musket balls, gun parts including a trade gun trigger guard, iron vessel fragments, and quantities of wrought nails. The metal detecting effort recovered two wrought nails and a cut nail, and two iron vessel fragments. The findings are consistent with Mr. Williams' identification. The Locus is 40 by 30 meters. No shovel testing was completed.

Approximately 0.25 mile west of the dwelling on Ferguson's Ridge is a portion of Locus-5 (Map 13-Page 41). Locus-5 is on a steep slope west of the Gilbert Town site at N3918339/E413955, but extends in all directions. Mr. Williams believes that Locus-5 is the main camp of Ferguson's command, and the artifacts recovered there during the field effort support that conclusion. Material was concentrated to the southwest of the crest of Ferguson's Ridge. In the past, the area has yielded numerous unfired musket balls, including many in the appropriate British caliber (.75"), musket parts, a musket combination tool, a brass shoulder belt buckle, shoe buckles, eighteenth century buttons, a brass sword guard, and wrought nails. Metal detecting was very successful in confirming the presence of an eighteenth century military camp recovering nine musket balls, three wrought nails, and other materials (Appendix-Page 50-51). No shovel testing was completed. The area covered by metal detecting was 120 by 60 meters, however, Mr. Williams indicates that the scatter of musket balls and other materials extends east to the Gilbert Cemetery, Locus 7.

11. Rock Road Vicinity, Gilbert Cemetery, (Tax Map 133, Parcel 51, 37.9 acres)  
This wooded tract contains approximately 38 acres and is located on the south and eastern slopes of Ferguson's Ridge. No buildings or structures are on this parcel. Within this tract are portions of Locus-5 and Locus-7. Locus-5, described above, contains artifacts associated with the campsite of British Major Patrick Ferguson's army. Locus-7 (N3918192/E414126) is the Gilbert Cemetery which is located on a spur of Ferguson's Ridge approximately 0.2 mile northwest of the Hampton-McKinney House (Map 15-Page 43). The cemetery contains the marked grave of William Gilbert, approximately nine graves marked with fieldstones, and at least two depressions indicating additional burials. These graves are believed to contain Gilbert's children. The graves are oriented towards the east and the cemetery is currently somewhat overgrown with various small trees and other vegetation interspersed among the fieldstones. The only marked grave is that of William Gilbert and this marker appears to have been added within the past several decades, and it is one contributing site. This flat marble headstone is engraved "William Gilbert 1720-1789." These dates appear to be in error and their origin is unknown since most sources give a birth date of 1735 and death in 1790.<sup>7</sup> The remaining graves are marked with granite fieldstones and no names, dates or other inscriptions are visible. The exact size of this cemetery cannot be determined at this time. Mr. Williams reported no recoveries of interest except to the north and west of the cemetery, where Locus-5 artifacts begin to occur. This site was not metal detected or shovel tested.
12. Rock Road Vicinity, Ferguson's Ridge, (Map 133, Parcel 52, 32.1 acres)  
This parcel contains 32 acres and is composed of woodlands along the eastern slopes of Ferguson's Ridge. No buildings or structures are on this parcel. This parcel contains a portion of Locus-5. Locus-5 is a wide scatter of artifacts and according to local tradition this area is associated with the campsite of British Major Patrick Ferguson's army which occupied Gilbert Town in September of 1780.

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<sup>7</sup> William S. Powell, ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 2 D-G* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 296.



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13. Rock Road, (Map 133, Parcel 6-D, 3.2 acres)  
This parcel is located across the road from the Hampton-McKinney House and contains 3.2 acres. No buildings or structures are on this property. The parcel is composed of woodlands along its western edge and the rest is in pasture.
14. Rock Road, (Map 133, Parcel 6-E, 5.5 acres)  
This parcel is located on the east side of Rock Road across from the Hampton-McKinney House and contains 5.5 acres. No buildings or structures are on this property. This parcel is composed of a large cultivated field.
15. Rock Road, (Map 133, Parcel 6-F, 9.1 acres)  
Located on the east side of Rock Road, this 9.1-acre parcel is composed both of pasture and woodlands. This site contains one non-contributing object, an historical marker erected in 1999, and two archaeological loci; Locus-1, the possible William Gilbert House site, and Locus-2, site of an eighteenth century building or structure. Locus-1 is a eighteenth and nineteenth century historic archeological site located at N3918247/E414566, on a knoll along the first terrace above Cathey's Creek. (Map 9-Page 37). The Locus is 35 (N-S) by 65 meters (E-W) in size. The location was identified by informant, Mr. Dale Williams, and was covered in waist-high grass and weeds at the time of survey.

Mr. Tom Padgett of the Rutherford County Historical Society cleared a total of eight east-west lanes and one north-south lane using a bush-hog in order for the survey team to be able to examine the area; shovel test and metal detect it. The bush-hog lanes were 1.80 meters in width. A total of 19 shovel tests were excavated within these lanes (and three in the long grass), eight of those containing 26 artifacts dating either to the eighteenth or nineteenth century (Appendix, Table 1-Page 49-50). A few twentieth century artifacts (clear glass and one modern whiteware sherd) were also found but not recovered. Shovel tests were 30 cms in diameter and averaged 20 cms in depth to sterile subsoils, the deepest shovel test being 32 cms. Soils consisted of approximately 5 cms of humus followed by a sandy clay plowzone (7.5YR4/6 strong brown). Subsoils were more clayey than the plowzone with very little color change (7.7YR6/8 reddish yellow).

Locus-1: Four of the southern east-west lanes and the north-south lanes were swept using metal detectors. A total of 25 metal objects were recovered (Appendix, Table 1-Page 49-50). Notable artifacts from both the shovel tests and the metal detecting include wrought nails, cut nails, a possible scabbard tip, creamware and pearlware sherds, and a fragment of a glass bead. The site definitely dates to the eighteenth century and it is obvious that there was a nineteenth century occupation also. The site may be the location of the William Gilbert House based on information provided by Mr. Williams and oral history that places his dwelling in this general area. Williams also related that Mr. Roberson, the present owner of the McKinney house, told him that field stone foundation piers stood on the site well into the twentieth century, but they were ultimately pushed down hill (north) into the tree line with heavy equipment. In the past, Mr. Williams found numerous wrought nails, wrought door hardware, eighteenth and early nineteenth century buttons, eighteenth century coins including a quarter section of a Spanish milled dollar, gun parts, musket balls and other lead shot, iron vessel fragments, and a portion of a silver eighteenth century knee buckle. When the field was plowed, black (dark olive green) glass and ceramic sherds were abundant on the surface. Mr. Williams reported finding very

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little of interest farther south or west in the field, off of the knoll. The materials recovered by the survey team shovel testing and metal detecting were consistent with Mr. Williams' collection.

Locus-2 is an archaeological component located at N3918275/E414675 in the floodplain of Cathey's Creek. (Map 10-Page 38). It was heavily overgrown during the field visit. Locus-2 is separated from Locus-1 by the eastern slope of the Locus-1 knoll, which yielded little material, and by a narrow, north-south tree line that is *not* shown on the USGS map. Mr. Roberson told Mr. Williams that a long-abandoned barn or other structure stood on this site into the twentieth century. Mr. Williams found large numbers of wrought and cut nails in Locus-2, many of them burned and very well preserved. He also recovered two iron grape or canister balls, as used in field artillery. The survey team metal detected a narrow, mowed path through the overgrown site and recovered two wrought and three cut nails. Its size is 40 meters by 10 meters, but this is the result of only one lane of mowed grass being available at the time of survey. The area is associated with the eighteenth century Gilbert Town occupation, but its exact function remains unknown.

16. Rock Road, (Map 133, Parcel 6-G, 8.3 acres)  
This parcel is located on the east side of Rock Road across from the dwelling at 1103 Rock Road (10). It is composed primarily of pasture with a tree line along its eastern edge. No buildings or structures are on this property.
17. Rock Road, (Map 133, Parcel 6-H, 0.16 acres)  
This small lot is located just to the south of the dwelling at 1103 Rock Road (10). This property is composed of a cleared lot at the rear of the house.
18. Rock Road (Map 734, Parcel 3, 80.8 acres)  
This parcel is located on the north side of Cathey's Creek and northwest of Rock Road. This 80.8 acre parcel is composed primarily of pasture with some woodlands extending along the creek.
19. Rock Road (Map 734, Parcel 8, 47.8 acres)  
Located on the north side of Cathey's Creek and east of Rock Road, this parcel is composed primarily of open pasture for livestock grazing. Along the creek are woodlands. No buildings or structures are located on this property.
20. Rock Road  
Rock Road follows the approximate location of the historic road which led from Morganton to South Carolina and extended through Gilbert Town in the eighteenth century. This road was widened and paved in the twentieth century and is included as a non-contributing structure to the historic district. A 1952 steel stringer bridge over Cathey's Creek on Rock Road is also included as a non-contributing structure to the district.
21. Old Gilbert Town Road  
The paved Old Gilbert Town Road was constructed through the area in 1950 and is included as a non-contributing structure to the historic district.

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary

The Gilbert Town Historic District is significant under National Register criterion A for its military significance. The Gilbert Town Historic District is also significant under criterion B and criteria consideration C for containing the grave of William Gilbert, a prominent county and state politician. The district's period of significance extends from 1776 to 1782 which encompasses its role during the Revolutionary War, and a single year, 1790, is the date of William Gilbert's gravesite.

Under criterion A, Gilbert Town played an important role in several Revolutionary War campaigns in North and South Carolina. Between 1776 and 1782, Gilbert Town was a staging ground and campsite for various British and Patriot commands. Centered around the William Gilbert House, this small community contained a store, tavern, mill and blacksmith shop, and was the only appreciable settlement in the area. In September of 1780, British Major Patrick Ferguson occupied Gilbert Town as part of his campaign to subdue the Patriot forces in the upland areas of the Carolinas. In response to Ferguson's threat, a Patriot army known as the "Overmountain Men," marched from East Tennessee south towards Gilbert Town. Ferguson retreated from Gilbert Town in late September and the settlement was the campsite of the Overmountain Men on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Following the defeat of Ferguson's command at King's Mountain on October 7<sup>th</sup>, Gilbert Town was used as a temporary prison for captured British and Tories, and as a hospital for Patriot soldiers until 1782.

The Gilbert Town Historic District is also significant under criterion B for its association with William Gilbert, a prominent early settler of the region. Gilbert purchased extensive acreage in this section of the county in the 1770s and a small settlement evolved around his dwelling and tavern. Gilbert served as Justice of the Peace for Tryon County from 1770 to 1775 and during the Revolutionary War he acted as a commissary for the militia in the Tryon area. In 1779, he represented Tryon County in the General Assembly until his expulsion for "intentionally defrauding the publick."<sup>8</sup> Despite this damage to his reputation, the voters of Rutherford County (formed from Tryon County in 1779) elected him to the General Assembly in 1780, 1782 and 1783. Because of his political influence, court was held at his house from 1781 to possibly as late as 1783. In addition to serving in the General Assembly, Gilbert also served as justice of the peace, tax assessor and collector, and member and chairman of the Rutherford Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. In 1784, Gilbert was removed from the General Assembly after finding him guilty of forgery. He sold much of his property to his son-in-law James Holland, and moved to Charleston. He later returned to Rutherford County where he was embroiled in numerous lawsuits. Gilbert died in 1790 and is buried in the Gilbert Cemetery located in the district.

Gilbert Town was the site of the Rutherford County Courthouse from 1781 to 1783. Rutherford County was formed in 1779 and the first courthouse location proved unsatisfactory. Court was then held in various homes while a new courthouse was built and one of these homes was that of William Gilbert at Gilbert Town. In July of 1781, court was held at Gilbert's house and it appears that his home continued to be used as the courthouse until the construction of a new log building in 1783, one mile to the southwest. The location of William Gilbert's House may be the site identified in the archaeological survey as Locus-1, however, there is no conclusive physical or written evidence to provide confirmation. This period in the county's history was an important one as many of the proceedings sought to

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<sup>8</sup> Powell, ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 2 D-G*, 296.

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settle disputes between Loyalists and Patriots. Located on the forks of Shepherd's Creek in the Gilbert Town vicinity, this second courthouse was used from 1783 to 1785-1786.<sup>9</sup> The exact location of this courthouse is presently unknown and attempts to identify the site during this project through archaeological investigations were not successful.

The archaeological survey of Gilbert Town in 2004 helped to confirm the site's British and Patriot occupation. This survey identified eight loci which contained artifacts associated with the eighteenth century occupation of Gilbert Town. This investigation identified the possible location of the William Gilbert House, the British Camp on Ferguson's Ridge, and other period sites. Artifacts uncovered during this investigation included musket balls, pieces of swords and muskets, and wrought iron nails and pottery. Due to the extent of disturbance at the eight loci and limited scope of the 2004 archaeological survey, the district's eligibility under criterion D is not supported at this time. Future investigations may provide additional information concerning the role of Gilbert Town during the late eighteenth century and the significance of its archaeological resources.

Since the eighteenth century, the site of Gilbert Town has remained largely undeveloped and it has a high degree of integrity. The nominated property contains 459.5 acres, most of which is composed of cultivated fields and woodlands. Although William Gilbert originally owned some 2,000 acres in the late eighteenth century, most of this property has been developed for residential or agricultural use and does not have direct historical associations with the events at Gilbert Town. The historic district contains a large archaeological landscape/site (31RF128) comprised of eight distinct loci, and the intact historic landscape is recognized as a historic site. No eighteenth century buildings or structures remain extant. Within the district are also thirty-six non-contributing buildings, one non-contributing object, and three non-contributing structures, many of which are on the edges of the district boundary. The Rutherford County Historical Society is presently taking an active role in the recognition and preservation of the Gilbert Town site.

## Discussion

Prior to the Revolutionary War, the property which comprises the proposed Gilbert Town Historic District was owned by William Gilbert, a prominent eighteenth century landowner. William Gilbert was born in Ireland in 1735 and came to America settling first in Philadelphia where he married Sarah McCandless.<sup>10</sup> The couple then moved to Charleston and by 1769, Gilbert began purchasing land in Tryon County, North Carolina. In 1770, Gilbert applied to the county for a license to establish an "ordinary" at his dwelling house.<sup>11</sup> An ordinary was another name for a public house or tavern, and ordinaries were licensed to accommodate travelers as well as to furnish food and drink. In 1771, the Tryon County Court granted William Gilbert permission to establish an ordinary in his dwelling house. In September of 1772 he purchased 300 acres on both sides of Cathey's Creek.<sup>12</sup> Soon after, Gilbert constructed a dwelling on this tract of land which may be the location of archaeological site Locus-1. Over the next eight years Gilbert acquired an

<sup>9</sup> Bynum cites a reference listing court held in the new courthouse on October 11, 1785 (see footnote 45). Local historian Nancy Ellen Ferguson states that her research shows the property not actually acquired by the county and the courthouse constructed until 1786.

<sup>10</sup> William B. Bynum, ed. *The Heritage of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Volume I, 1984*, (Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Hunter Publishing Company, 1984), 28.

<sup>11</sup> *Tryon County Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarters Sessions Minutes, October 1770, Tryon County Records*, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>12</sup> Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. *Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln, & Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1769-1786, Tryon County Wills and Estates*, (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1977), 54.

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additional 900 acres in this area and his holdings became known as "Gilbert Town."<sup>13</sup> Gilbert's property was located on the road which led from Morganton, North Carolina to upland South Carolina, which was a busy road on the Carolina frontier.

In addition to running a public house, Gilbert also operated a blacksmith shop. Blacksmiths were highly prized on the frontier as they provided metal for horseshoes, bullets, hinges, buckles, and other day-to-day necessities. In July of 1774, the Tryon County Court apprenticed John Harvey, a fourteen-year old orphan, to William Gilbert to learn the "art, trade, or mystery of a black smith."<sup>14</sup> It is unknown if William Gilbert was trained as a blacksmith or if it was his slave, Tom, a well-known blacksmith, who ran the shop.<sup>15</sup> According to Tryon County deed records, Gilbert also operated a store near Gilbert Town in the vicinity of Shepherd's Creek and Cathey's Creek.<sup>16</sup> The *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* and the *North Carolina Revolutionary War Army Accounts* both indicate that William Gilbert furnished the local militia with provisions, such as bacon and cornmeal. He also provided meals and quarters for soldiers and their prisoners.<sup>17</sup>

With its store, public house, and blacksmith shop, Gilbert Town became an important center for travelers along the frontier of North Carolina. As a prominent landowner and businessman, William Gilbert was elected and appointed to a series of public offices. In 1775, Gilbert was appointed as Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Tryon County. Two years later, Gilbert was appointed assessor of taxes in a local militia district and also served as tax collector. In 1779, he was elected as representative of Tryon County in the House of Commons. Charged with duplicating vouchers and defrauding the state, Gilbert was expelled from the House of Commons. He was later acquitted of these charges, and upon the formation of Rutherford County in 1779, he returned back to the House to represent the county in the assembly of 1780 and 1782-83.<sup>18</sup>

The upland areas of North and South Carolina became contested by Patriots and Loyalists in the early days of the Revolutionary War. Those who favored independence from England were known as Patriots or Whigs, while those who retained allegiance were termed Loyalists or Tories. The lightly populated upland area of the Carolinas contained citizens with both allegiances and fighting broke out among these factions as early as 1776. On June 1, 1776 a fight between Loyalists and Patriots occurred at Gilbert Town according to the pension application of James McDonald who served under the command of Colonel Charles McDowell.<sup>19</sup> The pension of John Blackwell describes his participation at several engagements including King's Mountain and at "Gilberttown."<sup>20</sup> It is unknown if McDonald

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 73-83.

<sup>14</sup> *Tryon County Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarters Sessions Minutes, October 1771, Tryon County Records*, North Carolina State Archives.

<sup>15</sup> James E. Wooley and Vivian Wooley, *Rutherford County, North Carolina, Wills and Miscellaneous Records, 1783-1868* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1984), 16.

<sup>16</sup> Lucas, *Deed Abstracts*, 83.

<sup>17</sup> *North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Secretary of State Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers, Journal "A" (Public Accounts) 1775-1776* (Durham, North Carolina: Wyenette Parks Haun, 1989), 9-10.

<sup>18</sup> Clarence W. Griffin, *History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1730-1936*, (Asheville, North Carolina: The Miller Printing Company, 1937), 71.

<sup>19</sup> Irene Roach Delpino, "The Role of Greater Gilbert Town in the American Revolution, (Manuscript on file with the Rutherford County Historical Society, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 2004), 2

<sup>20</sup> Bobby Gilmer Moss, *The Patriots at Kings Mountain*, (Blacksburg, South Carolina: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 1990), 20.

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and Blackwell are referring to the same military action but according to local historian Nancy Ferguson, forty-eight settlers were killed in this engagement.<sup>21</sup> It is unknown if this military action occurred at Gilbert Town itself or in the general vicinity.

In February of 1780, a British fleet and thousands of troops arrived off the South Carolina coast under the command of Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis. Charleston was besieged and the city and its forces surrendered on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Using Charleston as a base, Lord Cornwallis advanced into the interior of South Carolina and defeated the army of Patriot General Horatio Gates at the battle of Camden in August of 1780. In an effort to suppress the Patriots in the Carolinas, British General Lord Cornwallis put forces on the move throughout the region. One of these forces was the command of Major Patrick Ferguson who marched north from South Carolina in September. Ferguson was born in Scotland in 1744 and entered the military as a teenager. He came to America in 1776 with the army and sought to improve British arms through the invention of a breech loading rifle. He served in various commands until promoted to major in 1779. Following the surrender of Charleston, Ferguson was active in organizing and training Loyalists in South Carolina and he marched his command of 1,000 troops north to Gilbert Town in pursuit of Patriot militia.<sup>22</sup>

An important source on the movements and location of Major Ferguson's command at Gilbert Town is provided in the journal of Captain Alexander Chesney. Chesney was born in Ireland in 1755 and emigrated to America with his family in 1772. Arriving in Charleston, the Chesney family moved upstate and settled on a farm in what is now Cherokee County, South Carolina. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Chesney joined the Loyalist cause and participated in a number of engagements in the state from 1776 to 1780. Promoted to First Lieutenant, Chesney joined the force of Major Patrick Ferguson in June of 1780.<sup>23</sup> In August, Chesney was promoted to Captain and made Adjutant General under Ferguson.

During Ferguson's campaign to subdue the Carolina frontier, he marched his command to Gilbert Town on September 7, 1780 (Map 2-Page 29). While at Gilbert Town, Ferguson paroled Samuel Phillips, a distant relative of Colonel Isaac Shelby, and gave him a verbal message to convey to the Patriots over the mountains in what is now East Tennessee. This message was "if they did not desist from their opposition to the British arms, he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword."<sup>24</sup> Conveyed to Patriot leaders this message had the opposite effect and 1,000 Patriot militia gathered at Sycamore Shoals at present-day Elizabethton to organize opposition to Ferguson. Under the command of John Sevier, Isaac Shelby, William Campbell, and Charles McDowell, this force was well-armed and traveled lightly without extensive baggage or wagons. Known as the Overmountain Men, this militia force began their march to confront Ferguson on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Using Gilbert Town as his base of operations, Ferguson led his men in pursuit of Patriot forces on September 9<sup>th</sup>. On September 12<sup>th</sup> Ferguson clashed with Patriot militia at Cane Creek, approximately twelve miles northeast of

<sup>21</sup> Nancy Ellen Ferguson, Personal Communication, 11 October, 2005.

<sup>22</sup> David Lee Russell, *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies*, (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2000), 184.

<sup>23</sup> Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Journal of Capt. Alexander Chesney, Adjutant to Major Patrick Ferguson*, (Blacksburg, South Carolina: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2002), 19.

<sup>24</sup> Lyman C. Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1780, and the Events Which Led to It.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company Inc., 1881, reprint ed. 1971), 169.



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Gilbert Town, resulting in casualties on both sides (Map 3). One of those wounded in the Cane Creek fight was Major James Dunlap who was later moved to William Gilbert's house as he recovered from his injuries. Ferguson and his command returned back to Gilbert Town and encamped on September 23<sup>rd</sup> "on a height about half a mile from the town."<sup>25</sup> This location corresponds with the height known today as "Ferguson's Ridge" which is one-half mile northwest of the probable William Gilbert house site. Ferguson camped at Gilbert Town for the following three days. During his occupation of Gilbert Town, Ferguson had holding pens constructed to house and shelter prisoners captured by his army.

While Ferguson camped at Gilbert Town he recruited Loyalists in the area and gathered supplies. Using Gilbert Town as a base of operations, Ferguson rallied hundreds of men in the region to join his army.<sup>26</sup> As historian Lyman Draper noted, those who came to Gilbert Town to proclaim their loyalty to the crown did so for a number of reasons. "For many miles around people wended their way to the head-quarters of this noted representative of the British crown; thinking, as Charleston had fallen, Gates been defeated, Sumter surprised and dispersed, and the various detachments lately in force in the Spartanburg region were disbanded or scattered, that the Whig cause was now utterly prostrate and hopeless. Many of those who now took the oath of allegiance to the British Government, subsequently excused their conduct on the plea that the country was overrun, and that this was the only course by which they could save their property, secure themselves and families from molestation, and at the same time preserve the stock of the country for the supply of the needy patriots thereafter."<sup>27</sup>

A description of Gilbert Town was provided by Lieutenant Anthony Allaire who kept a diary while serving with Ferguson during this campaign. Allaire was a Loyalist from New York who came to South Carolina and served under Ferguson at the siege of Charleston and his later campaigns. In his diary, Allaire described Gilbert Town as containing "...one dwelling house, one barn, a blacksmith's shop, and some out-houses."<sup>28</sup> Another account of Gilbert Town described it as "a small village, composed of a number of rather well-built and comfortable log houses."<sup>29</sup> Draper's book, originally published in 1881, contains drawings of sites and individuals prominent in the King's Mountain campaign. One of the drawings is referred to as "Ferguson's Head-Quarters" and is located in the section discussing Ferguson's camp at Gilbert Town.<sup>30</sup> The provenance of this drawing is not known but the inference is that the building was used by Ferguson at Gilbert Town. The building in this illustration is a one-and-one-half story frame dwelling constructed on stone piers and with a central stone chimney (Figure 1-Page 30). It has a shed roof porch on the side of the house and a shed roof side wing. It is unknown if this dwelling was described to Draper or if its description comes from an earlier account.

Ferguson moved south from Gilbert Town on September 27<sup>th</sup> and later attempted to join with other British forces upon learning of the approach of the Overmountain Men. Altogether, Ferguson's force had spent eight days in September, 1780, encamped at Gilbert Town. The Overmountain Men reached Gilbert Town on the night of October 4<sup>th</sup> and camped on the ridgeline recently vacated by Ferguson. They broke camp on the morning of October 5<sup>th</sup> in their pursuit of Ferguson's force. The two forces collided at King's Mountain in South Carolina on October

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 508.

<sup>26</sup> Moss, *Journal of Capt. Alexander Chesney*, 108.

<sup>27</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 147.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, 508.

<sup>29</sup> Griffin, *History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina*, 80.

<sup>30</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 160-161.

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7<sup>th</sup>. Ferguson's outnumbered Loyalist army was surrounded and dealt a crushing defeat. Ferguson was killed and most of his command was killed, wounded or captured. The battle at King's Mountain was a significant reversal for British and Tory forces in the South. British General Sir Henry Clinton later wrote that the defeat at King's Mountain had "unhappily proved the first link in a chain of evils that followed each other in regular succession until they at last ended in the total loss of America."<sup>31</sup>

Following their surrender, the Loyalists of Ferguson's army were marched north to Gilbert Town on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Captain Chesney described being stripped of his shoes and forced to march with little food.<sup>32</sup> At Gilbert Town, the prisoners were placed in the holding pens previously built by Ferguson during his occupation of the settlement. Poorly fed and suffering from the cold, the Loyalist prisoners were then moved to Biggerstaff's Plantation, approximately seven miles east of Gilbert Town (Map 3). At this location, a trial was held which condemned twenty-four of the Loyalists to death in retaliation for their crimes committed earlier along the frontier. Nine were hanged before these revenge killings were stopped.

With the destruction of Ferguson's army at King's Mountain, some of the Overmountain Men returned home while others remained to fight in the Patriot victory at Cowpens on January 17, 1781. During this period Gilbert Town was used as a hospital for those wounded at both King's Mountain and Cowpens. The hospital at Gilbert Town was utilized until the end of the war and soldiers were stationed there to protect the settlement. Alexander Dunn of Rutherford County served under Colonel Benjamin Cleveland at King's Mountain and stated in his pension that his command then "went to Gilberttown where he remained until the first of May 1782 guarding against Tory and Indian movements."<sup>33</sup> After his victory at Cowpens, General Daniel Morgan had wounded of both sides loaded onto wagons and brought to Gilbert Town. British and Loyalist prisoners taken in the battle were also brought to Gilbert Town and placed in the holding pens. At least twenty wounded men are known to have been transported to Gilbert Town. One of these was William Meade who stated in his pension application that after receiving three wounds in the battle, he was carried to the hospital at Gilbert Town where he convalesced for eight months.<sup>34</sup> The battles of King's Mountain and Cowpens helped to turn the tide against the British forces on the South. After his costly victory at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina in March of 1781, Lord Cornwallis moved his army to Yorktown where he was forced to surrender in October. Following the surrender of Yorktown, most of the fighting in the Carolinas came to a close. It appears that the soldiers stationed or hospitalized at Gilbert Town returned home by the summer of 1782.

During the war, Gilbert Town also figured prominently in the death of a well-known Loyalist officer, Major James Dunlap. James Dunlap first served as a captain and then major of the Queen's Rangers when he came to South Carolina and joined Patrick Ferguson's forces. Commissioned a captain in 1776, Dunlap earned a reputation as a ruthless and cruel officer. By the time Dunlap came south to serve with Ferguson he had "rendered himself infamous by his barbarity" and "incensed the people against him."<sup>35</sup> During 1780, Dunlap was involved in a number of engagements in the Carolinas including a skirmish at Cedar Springs where he was wounded. On September 12, 1780, Dunlap was again wounded at the fight at Cane Creek and spent several weeks recovering from his injuries.

<sup>31</sup> Russell, *The American Revolution in the Southern Colonies*, 196.

<sup>32</sup> Moss, *Journal of Capt. Alexander Chesney*, 33.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, 72.

<sup>34</sup> Delpino, "The Role of Greater Gilbert Town in the American Revolution", 8.

<sup>35</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 59.

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The diary of Uzall Johnson, a surgeon who served with Ferguson, reported that he dressed Dunlap's wounds at the John Walker plantation near Cane Creek on September 13<sup>th</sup>.<sup>36</sup> Johnson himself was taken ill and on September 24<sup>th</sup> he wrote in his diary that "Waggon's were sent to move Dunlap and I to Gilbert Town. Dunlap was carried on a Litter and I in a covered Waggon fixed on a bed. We took quarters at Gilbert's House. Here we found Colonel Ferguson and his detachment."<sup>37</sup> Ferguson was using Gilbert's house as his headquarters and both Dunlap and Johnson remained at Gilbert's until the morning of September 28<sup>th</sup> when they moved south to avoid the oncoming Overmountain Men. Dunlap resumed his convalescence at another home and as a result, he missed the Battle of King's Mountain and the defeat of Ferguson's command.

By early 1781, Dunlap had recovered sufficiently to lead a foraging party from the community of Ninety-Six in South Carolina towards the Little River, a tributary of the Saluda River. General Andrew Pickens sent a larger force in pursuit and on March 23<sup>rd</sup> near Beattie's Mill, Dunlap's force was largely killed or captured. Dunlap himself was taken prisoner and along with several other officers and men, taken to Gilbert Town. At the home of William Gilbert, Dunlap was attacked and died on March 28<sup>th</sup>. In a deposition signed by his fellow officer, Captain Daniel Cozens, five members of the Georgia militia entered the house and shot Dunlap as he lay asleep.

"Five of the Rebel Militia entered the Room about eleven O Clock at night & came over the bed with a lighted Candle & immediately discharged two pistols at his head the Explosion of which woke those officers that were Sleeping with him & finding Capt Dunlap shot, they impostured (sic) the Rebels not to murder them....some time after the Officers with Capt Dunlap finding the Rebels had entirely left the house went to Capt Dunlap & found him still alive and able to Speak, desiring Capt Cozens to dress his wounds adding he though he might live if good care was taken of him, the Officer dressed his wounds in the best manner they could, and sat up with him 'till morning & then dress'd him again by his own desire, but could afford him no further assistance being march'd away immediately, but got leave for a corporal to take care of him, but the same party came into the room at two o'clock in the day with one Arthur Cob (sic) who did everything he could to distress Capt Dunlap by telling him he must be mov'd etc. and on Capt Dunlap's begging of them for God's sake to let him die easy, Cob Shot him through the body with a rifle as he was sitting up in bed supported by the Corporal, this the Corporal related on joining us the next day."<sup>38</sup>

Although not factually correct on the circumstances of Dunlap's death, Historian Lyman Draper recounted in the 1880s that the stain of Dunlap's blood remained visible on the floor in the William Gilbert House until it was dismantled ca. 1878. Oral tradition and Draper's account states that Dunlap was buried on a hill three hundred yards south of the Gilbert House and his grave was marked by a granite rock at the head and foot.<sup>39</sup> This description is consistent with the grave marked by the granite headstone and footstone approximately 1,000 feet southwest of the possible William Gilbert House site. This grave is also set apart from the other graves and has larger stones than others in the cemetery. The identity of the individuals in the remaining graves in the cemetery is unknown. Local

<sup>36</sup> Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Uzal Johnson, Loyalist Surgeon, A Revolutionary War Diary*, ((Blacksburg, South Carolina: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2000), 65.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 66-67.

<sup>38</sup> Moss, *Journal of Capt. Alexander Chesney*, 149.

<sup>39</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 161.

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historians attribute the graves to those who died at the Gilbert Town Hospital from 1780 to 1782.<sup>40</sup> This is supported by the similarity in the materials and appearance of the headstones and footstones as well as the consistent row containing six of the graves. This cemetery is Locus-8 and is located within the historic district boundary.

During the British occupation of Gilbert Town, William Gilbert was at Hillsborough, North Carolina serving in the General Assembly. Because of Ferguson's use of his house as his headquarters, Gilbert was suspected of being a Tory. Upon his return to the county he was tried but found not guilty of being a Loyalist. In 1783, Gilbert's good character was asserted by the Rutherford County Court. In the October session of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions the court made the following order:

"...that the clerk make a Certificate under the seal of Rutherford County that William Gilbert hath long lived in the county, has represented the county in the General Assembly, first Commissioner of the Peace...and it appears from the list of assignments returned into the clerks office that he is possessed of and hath given for assessing more taxable property than any other person in the county of Rutherford and that hath uniformly distinguished himself as a warm Whig and true friend of his County in times of the greatest distress during the War, the Court therefore recommends him to the civility of strangers among (whom) he may travel."<sup>41</sup>

In addition to its role as a hospital, Gilbert Town also served as the seat of Rutherford County during the early 1780s. Rutherford County was formed from Tryon County in 1779, and the General Assembly authorized the selection of a site for the courthouse. This first courthouse was to be built on Shepherd's Creek but this site proved inadequate and court was first held in the home of John Walker. The court was later held in the homes of Thomas Morris, John Flack, James Holland and William Gilbert until a new courthouse was completed. On July 4, 1781, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was held at William Gilbert's home and Justices present were George Black and William Gilbert. As part of their proceedings, the court adjourned to inspect the proposed site of the new courthouse approximately one mile southwest of Gilbert's house on property owned by his son-in-law, James Holland. This site seemed to meet the criteria, and in October, the commissioners appointed to select the courthouse agreed on a site on Holland's land "on the forks of Shepherd's Creek."<sup>42</sup>

Despite agreeing on a location, the construction of the courthouse was delayed for almost two years and it appears that the court continued to meet at Gilbert's house during this interim period. Gilbert figures prominently in court minutes from 1781 and 1782 and in the January session of 1782, Gilbert was "appointed Chairman of the Court until further orders."<sup>43</sup> In January of 1783, the court ordered the "Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly to build court house to appear before our next court to show cause, if any they have, they have not complied with said Act."<sup>44</sup> This admonition by the court appears to have yielded results and in October the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was begun and "held for County of Rutherford at the court house on the second Monday of October 1783 in the VIII year of our American Independence. Present: William Gilbert, Jonathan Hampton, James Whiteside, Esquire,

<sup>40</sup> Nancy Ellen Ferguson and Irene Delapino, Personal Interview, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 7 July, 2004.

<sup>41</sup> *Rutherford County, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, October, 1783*, court page 158.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, October, 1781, court page 43.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, January, 1782, court page 44.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid*, January, 1783, court page 153.

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and other Justices.”<sup>45</sup> This courthouse joined a jail which was authorized and built a year earlier on Holland’s land. In July of 1782, Holland agreed to build “...a house for the purpose of a goal and be hughed (sic) logs 14 foot in the clear, square logs...and Holland performing said service paid thirty pounds.”<sup>46</sup>

It appears from these court records that construction of the courthouse was authorized for the site at the forks of Shepherd’s Creek in October of 1781. However, the actual completion of the courthouse did not occur until sometime in mid-1783. William Gilbert’s house was the last dwelling known to have been used by the court prior to the construction of the new courthouse. No other court locations are mentioned in the records of 1781 to 1783, and it is reasonable to assume that the county court continued to meet at Gilbert’s house prior to the completion and occupation of the courthouse at the forks of Shepherd’s Creek. The soldiers stationed at Gilbert Town in 1781 and 1782 would also have provided a sense of security for the business of the court. The archaeological investigations of 2004 identified the possible site of William Gilbert’s house which was used as the courthouse (Locus-1).

The courthouse completed in 1783 on James Holland’s property was built in the vicinity of the confluence of the two forks of Shepherd’s Creek (now known as Holland’s Creek). Within a few years there were complaints among county residents that this location was not convenient and that it was sited in a low swampy area. In response, a new site to the south on Cleghorn’s Creek was chosen on property owned by James Adair, and court was held in this new courthouse on October 11, 1785.<sup>47</sup> This new courthouse site evolved into the community of Rutherfordton.

It is unclear what happened to the log courthouse and jail on at the forks of Shepherd’s Creek and their exact site is unknown. The landscape of this area has been altered through the construction of nearby industrial buildings and a twentieth century railroad line. Much of the area at the forks of the creek is now overgrown. A possible site in a field east of the railroad line was tested by archaeologist Tom Padgett in August of 2004. No eighteenth century artifacts or other evidence was discovered during this excavation. It is hoped that additional research in the future will provide other clues as to the exact location of the Rutherford County Courthouse of 1783-1785. Because the exact location of the courthouse site is unknown, it is not included within the proposed district boundary.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, William Gilbert owned 2,000 acres of land, eleven slaves, and five horses. However, he also owed 1,125 pounds in taxes on his property and he was later the subject of several lawsuits.<sup>48</sup> By 1784, Gilbert was forced to sell much of his property and from 1786 to 1788 he resided in Charleston. Gilbert returned to Rutherford County and lived at the home of his son-in-law, James Holland and daughter, Sarah.<sup>49</sup> William Gilbert died in 1790 and was buried on a spur of Ferguson’s Ridge (Locus-7). His wife Sarah, accompanied James Holland and his family west to Tennessee in the 1790s and she died in Maury County in 1822.

The house built by William Gilbert along with three hundred acres was sold to Jonathan Hampton in 1787. Draper states that the dwelling built by William Gilbert remained standing until the 1870s. The 1808 Price-Strother Map of North Carolina shows the residence of “Hampton” at the approximate location of Gilbert Town between Cathey’s and

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid, *October, 1783*, court page 58.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid, *July, 1782*, court page 74.

<sup>47</sup> Bynum, ed. *The Heritage of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Volume I, 1984*, 29.

<sup>48</sup> General Assembly Papers, Tax Lists, Rutherford County, 1782, North Carolina State Library and Archives.

<sup>49</sup> Bynum, ed. *The Heritage of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Volume I, 1984*, 28.

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Shepherd's Creek (Map 4-Page 32).<sup>50</sup> In 1831, owner Jonathan Hampton was visited by Colonel Silas McDowell and he took McDowell to the Gilbert house and pointed out a bloodstain on the floor, reportedly that of Major James Dunlap, who was killed at the house in March of 1781.<sup>51</sup> Jonathan Hampton deeded the property to his son, Samuel S. Hampton in 1843. Two years later the property was sold by Hampton to John Gray Bynum. In 1855, the property was purchased from Bynum by Robert G. Twitty for \$4,000.<sup>52</sup> The property was purchased in 1873 by James A. Forney and according to Draper, Forney demolished the deteriorated Gilbert House around 1878.<sup>53</sup> Draper states that Forney preserved the blood-stained floor-plank but no other information on this relic is known.

The demolition of the Gilbert House in the 1870s is also confirmed by Solomon Gallert, an attorney who practiced law in Rutherfordton in the early twentieth century. In 1905, Gallert sent a letter to Francis D. Wilson, the Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, which described the Gilbert House history. Gallert wrote:

"The gavel is made of a piece of wood cut from an old apple tree which was several years cut down in front of the house formerly occupied by William Gilbert and which marked the settlement once known as Gilberttown in Rutherford County. The old house, which was the first building in which the courts of Rutherford County were held, when about to fall from age, was torn down by its owner, the late J.A. Forney, esq., about the year 1878 and nothing now remains to mark its site but the grown sprouts of Lombardy Poplars which originally shaded its yard."<sup>54</sup>

Following the death of James A. Forney, this tract containing 603 acres was sold at auction to James M. McKinney in January of 1898. James M. McKinney sold sections of the property to his son, George C. McKinney, and his daughter Anna Lee. Anna Lee married Judson Walker in the early twentieth century and they constructed a frame bungalow at 900 Rock Road around 1920. Another dwelling was built ca. 1900 on property sold to the Cowen family at 1103 Rock Road. The majority of this property continues to remain in cultivation and much of this acreage remains in the ownership of the descendants of James M. McKinney.

The site of Gilbert Town remained a pastoral valley surrounded by wooded ridges from the eighteenth century to the present. The valley along Cathey's Creek remains in agriculture and over the years has supported cultivation commonly found in this section of the state. James Womack, who grew up in the Gilbert Town area recalls that from the 1930s to the present the fields to the east and south of Ferguson's Ridge were planted in corn, wheat, and peas.<sup>55</sup> Aerial photographs taken of Rutherford County in 1938, 1956, and 1988 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show few changes to the overall landscape. The photographs show the valley area south of Cathey's Creek under continual cultivation or used as pasture while the ridges remain in woodlands (Maps 5-7-Page 33-35). During the summer of 2004, the valley areas adjacent to Cathey's Creek were used as pasture for hay cultivation or for livestock grazing.

<sup>50</sup> *Price-Strother Map of North Carolina, 1808*. Map on file at the North Carolina State Library and Archives.

<sup>51</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 160.

<sup>52</sup> Christine Trebellas, "*Gilbert Town and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail*," (Atlanta, Georgia: Southeast Support Office, National Park Service, 1997), 7.

<sup>53</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, 160-1.

<sup>54</sup> Horton, "*Assessment of the Twitty-McKinney House*," 2-3.

<sup>55</sup> James Womack, Personal Interview, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, 7 July, 2004.



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Today, the area which comprises the historical location of Gilbert Town retains much of its integrity. There has been little residential development in the valley along Cathey's Creek and the landscape is comprised of woodlands and cultivated fields and pasture. The Gilbert Town Historic District is significant in the military history of the Revolutionary War for its role in the King's Mountain and Cowpens campaigns. It is also significant for its association with prominent settler William Gilbert and his gravesite. The preservation of Gilbert Town is now a priority of the Rutherford County Historical Society.

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**UTM References:** Rutherfordton North USGS Quad, Zone 17S

A: 414205/3919455  
B: 414780/3918935  
C: 415185/3918020  
D: 414505/3917460  
E: 413760/3917875  
F: 413495/3918585

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Gilbert Town Historic District is shown on the accompanying Rutherford County tax maps 133 and 734 which are drawn at a scale of 1" = 400.' The boundary includes the following parcels on tax map 133: 4-A, 5, 5-A, 6, 6-A, 6-B, 6-C, 6-D, 6-E, 6-F, 6-G, 6-H, 7-A, 7-B, 8, 9, 51, and 52. The boundary includes the following parcels on tax map 734: 3 and 8. The boundary includes 459.5 acres.

## Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Gilbert Town Historic District is drawn to include all of the contiguous properties retaining integrity which encompass the historic settlement of Gilbert Town. The boundary encompasses the woodlands and cultivated fields containing all eight known archaeological sites identified at Gilbert Town as well as other parcels with archaeological potential. On the north the boundary extends to include the bottomlands along Cathey's Creek. These parcels may contain areas used as campsites during the Revolutionary War and have the potential to yield archaeological information in the future. The northeastern boundary runs along Cathey's Creek and incorporates land known to have been owned by William Gilbert in the eighteenth century and sites associated with his occupation. On the south the boundary is drawn to include properties along Rock Road and Old Gilbert Town Road. On the edge of this boundary are a number of non-contributing buildings, however, several of these are on large parcels which extend to include known and potential archaeological sites. The west boundary includes the western slopes of Ferguson's Ridge. To the west of these parcels is extensive residential development. This boundary encompasses the known archaeological sites historically associated with the settlement of Gilbert Town.

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## Property Owners

Map 133, Parcel 4A	Herman L. Bailey 448 Old Gilbert Town Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 5	Hardy H. and Janet A. Huntley 7801 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, FL 33565
Map 133, Parcel 5A	Clyde T. and Cathy Owens 476 Old Gilberttown Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 6	Georgia and Neal Roberson 1001 Rock Rd. Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 6A	James C. and Netha Y. McKinney 963 Rock Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 6B	James C. and Netha Y. McKinney 963 Rock Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 6C	Helen M. and Glenn B. Long 2716 53 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32966
Map 133, Parcel 6D	Troy P. Monteith 70 Finns Point Lane Hampton, VA 23669

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Map 133, Parcel 6E	Barbara M. and Merrill D. Epley 505 Williamsburg Avenue Smithfield, VA 23430
Map 133, Parcel 6F	Helen M and Glenn B. Long 2716 53 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32966
Map 133, Parcel 6G	Bobby Leo and Shirley Ann Glover 2310 Hollis Road Ellenboro, NC 28040
Map 133, Parcel 6H	Gary W. and Janelle Camp P.O. Box 1454 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 7A	Gary W. and Janelle Camp P.O. Box 1454 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 7B	Gary W. and Janelle Camp P.O. Box 1454 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 8	Gerald P. and Bette J. Cross 900 Rock Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Map 133, Parcel 9	William L. and Rita R. Gary 781 Rock Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139



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Map 133, Parcel 52	David W. and Carolyn C. Edgerton 944 South Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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Map 133, Parcel 51	Margaret V. Edgerton P.O. Box 288 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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Map 734, Parcel 3	Gary W. and Janelle Camp P.O. Box 1454 Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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Map 734, Parcel 8	Scott and Sandra Hughes 1356 Rock Road Rutherfordton, NC 28139
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## Photographs

Gilbert Town Historic District  
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Photo by: Thomason and Associates  
Date: July, 2004  
Location of Negatives: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

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|---------------------|--|
| Photo No. 1 of 26:  | Gilbert Town site showing historical marker and Loci-1 and 4. View to the north.   |
| Photo No. 2 of 26:  | Gilbert Town historical marker. View to the north.   |
| Photo No. 3 of 26:  | Fields to the east of the Hampton-McKinney House, view to the northeast.   |
| Photo No. 4 of 26:  | Fields and woods to the east of the Hampton-McKinney House. View to the east.  |
| Photo No. 5 of 26:  | View of fields to the east of the Hampton-McKinney House and Rock Road. View to the south.   |
| Photo No. 6 of 26:  | Field west of Rock Road and north of 1003 Rock Road. View to the northwest.  |
| Photo No. 7 of 26:  | Field east of Rock Road, north of Cathey's Creek. View to the southeast.   |
| Photo No. 8 of 26:  | Field west of Rock Road, north of Cathey's Creek. View to the northwest.   |
| Photo No. 9 of 26:  | Field east of Rock Road and 1003 Rock Road. View to the northeast.   |
| Photo No. 10 of 26: | Field containing Locus-1. View is to the south towards the hill containing the Colonial Cemetery, Locus-8.                             |
| Photo No. 11 of 26: | Shovel test locations and archaeologist Steven D. Smith at Locus-1.  |
| Photo No. 12 of 26: | Small field containing the site of Locus-2. View to the east.  |
| Photo No. 13 of 26: | Wooded area containing the site of Locus-3. View to the southeast.   |
| Photo No. 14 of 26: | Field north of 1010 Rock Road containing the site of Locus-3. View to the north.   |
| Photo No. 15 of 26: | Ferguson's Ridge from Rock Road vicinity. View is to the west.   |
| Photo No. 16 of 26: | Ferguson's Ridge, location of Locus-5. View to the west.   |
| Photo No. 17 of 26: | William Gilbert Cemetery, Locus-7, showing Gilbert grave and associated headstones and footstones. View to the northwest.              |
| Photo No. 18 of 26: | Colonial Cemetery, Locus-8, showing headstone and footstone attributed as the grave of Tory Major James Dunlap. View to the northwest. |
| Photo No. 19 of 26: | Colonial Cemetery, Locus-8, showing row of headstones and footstones. View to the northwest.   |
| Photo No. 20 of 26: | Hampton-McKinney House at 1000 Rock Road. View to the south.   |
| Photo No. 21 of 26: | Dwelling at 1003 Rock Road. View to the southeast.   |
| Photo No. 22 of 26: | Outbuildings associated with 1003 Rock Road. View to the north.  |
| Photo No. 23 of 26: | Rock Road bridge at Cathey's Creek. View to the northeast.   |
| Photo No. 24 of 26: | Cathey's Creek at Rock Road bridge. View to the northwest.   |
| Photo No. 25 of 26: | Dwelling at 900 Rock Road. View to the southeast.  |
| Photo No. 26 of 26: | Dwelling at 498 Old Gilbert Town Road. View to the northeast.  |